



NEWS RELEASE

PRESS OFFICE

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Wisconsin's Oldest & Largest Custom Broker House Wins Wisconsin SBA 2006 Small Business Exporter of the Year Award

Milwaukee: **Robert Gardenier**, President of M.E. Dey & Co., Inc. has won SBA's Wisconsin 2006 Small Business Exporter of the Year Award.

Founded in 1907, by Ms. Mae Elizabeth Dey, M.E. Dey & Co., Inc., is today owned and operated by the Gardenier family. Robert Gardenier, the current President, is Mae Dey's great grand nephew. Celebrating its 99th year as a small business, the nature of the company was based on import Custom House Brokerage, begun in 1907, and Foreign Freight Forwarding begun in 1945. M.E. Dey is Wisconsin's oldest and largest Custom Broker House.

M.E. Dey serves as an extension to a client's international department, assisting exporters with personalized and accurate customer service. Based on the needs of the client, the company's objective is to become a partner with the exporter. They have also taken the initiative to assertively evolve into a technologically savvy and customer friendly environment. Sophisticated services are now incorporated into the every day working environment, benefiting customers and their export processes dramatically.

M.E. Dey offers voluntary assistance to the employees of small businesses that are entering the export market and has provided voluntary assistance to exporters in an educational capacity (teaching classes, lecturing at international events) and in the position of board member or officer in several organizations.

The winner of this award is determined by the business's staying power, growth in sales and employees, overcoming obstacles, innovativeness of product/service and contributions to the community. M.E. Dey & Co., Inc. meets all this criteria and more.

M.E. Dey & Co., Inc. that began with a single employee now operates two offices and employs more than three dozen professional people to assist clients with nearly all aspects of

their Import and Export programs. Having survived a worldwide depression, numerous recessions, two major and several minor wars, protectionism and the ravages of inflation, the company's commitment to customer service has remained constant from the time of steam and sail, to the era of containers, stack trains and around the world service – providing the best service to each and every customer.

SBA will be presenting the 2006 Small Business Exporter of the Year Award to Robert and M.E. Dey & Co., Inc. at our 21st Annual Small Business Awards Breakfast on Friday, May 19, 2006 at the Milwaukee Marriott West in Waukesha. For more information on the awards, please call 414-297-1093.

*Additional information about SBA's programs and services is available
at SBA's Web site: www.sba.gov and Wisconsin's SBA Website: www.sba.gov/wi*